

Spotlight on Dorchester . . .

Dorchester County was named for Dorchester, Massachusetts. In 1696, Congregationalists from that town moved south and established a new settlement called Dorchester. The county seat is the town of St. George. The town of Summerville was settled in the late eighteenth century as a summer resort for planters who wished to escape the malaria prevalent on their rice plantations; the town later became a winter resort, too. Middleton Place Gardens, the remains of an old rice plantation, are the oldest landscaped gardens in the country. Middleton Place was the home of Henry Middleton (1717-1784), president of the Continental Congress, his son Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his grandson Henry Middleton (1770-1846), a governor, United States Congressman, and ambassador to Russia.

Summerville Workforce Center

2885 West 5th North Street, P O Box 1868
Summerville, SC 29484
(843) 821-0695 / FAX: (843) 871-1446

Location & Climate

- Located in the southeastern area of the state
- Surrounded by Orangeburg, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Bamberg counties
- This region has an average temperature of 64.5 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 50.6 inches.

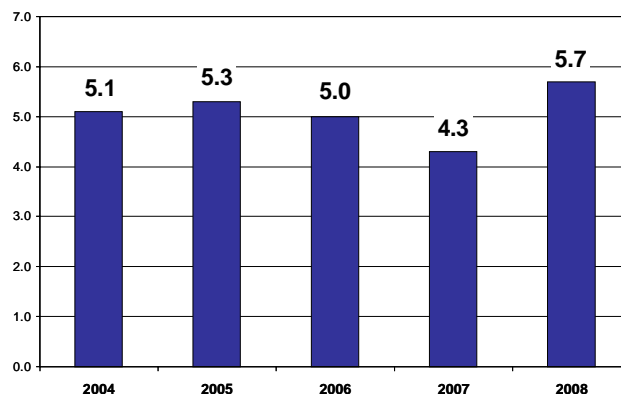
Population

- Was 123,360 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 139,370 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 71.1% White, 25.3% African-American, and 3.5% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 1,722 in 2000 to 3,735 in 2007, a 116.9% change.

Labor Force

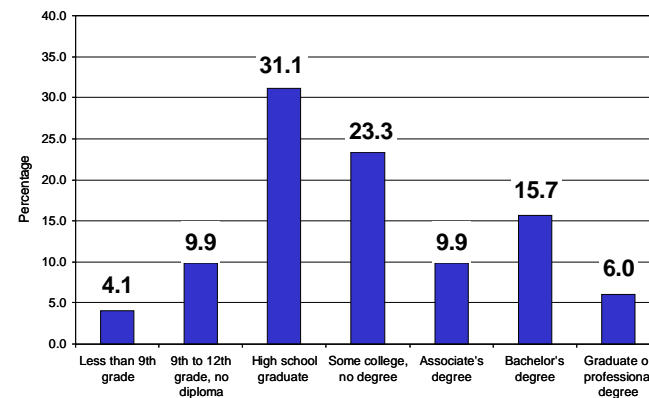
- Increased from 62,090 in 2007 to 63,580 in 2008
- Employment rose from 59,400 in 2007 to 59,970 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate climbed from 4.3% in 2007 to 5.7% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Dorchester County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Dorchester County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$29,090 for 2007.
- This was 94% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 75% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Summerville Workforce Center, which serves Dorchester County, paid \$16,067,105 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission Labor Market Information

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>